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1. Elementary education in Latvia is compulsory. There are Latvian and Russian schools. The elementary schools for other groups still in existence after 1945 had all been closed by the end of the 1948/49 school year, with the possible exception of one or two such as the Belorussian school at Daugavpils. Before the war there were Polish, Lithuanian, Estonian, German, Belorussian and Jewish schools.
2. The elementary school course lasts seven years, and is free of charge. Great stress is laid on political education, in the Pioneers, the Red Corners, and political meetings. Every school has a specially appointed instructor on political education (politruk), who is in charge of the school's political activities. He is usually one of the younger teachers who has been in the Komsomol himself. In some schools he is the leader of the Pioneers; in others he may be a special instructor from the Komsomol who comes two or three times a week to give instruction and to supervise the Pioneer groups.
3. Elementary school pupils in the seventh year must take part in all public political demonstrations. One of the duties of the political instructor is to see that they do so.
4. Soviet achievements predominate in all school lessons on history, geography, and literature, and the heroes of the Soviet Union are always held up as examples.

5. There are both Latvian and Russian secondary schools. The course lasts five years. Attendance fee is from 200 to 225 rubles per school year (September to June). Political education is stressed just as it is in the elementary schools. Political supervisors or leaders see to it that pupils participate in all public demonstrations such as sporting events and song festivals. The political instructor usually belongs to the Komsomol, and is subordinate only to the Komsomol authorities. He is outside the purview of authority of the director of the school.

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6. All secondary schools have Komsomol groups, and it is essential for pupils intending to continue their studies at the university to join them. Military and physical training in secondary schools are strictly enforced.
7. In addition to secondary schools, there are technical schools (Technikums) where technical subjects receive priority over everything except political education. Pupils who finish at a technical school have the same right to continue at the university as graduates from a secondary school.
8. The V.E.F. (Valsts Elektrotehniska Fabrika) State Electrical Factory has its own technical school where pupils work in their chosen speciality parallel with their studies.
9. In Riga there is also a school of music whose graduates may continue at the Conservatory (Konservatoriya).
10. The effects of political education in the secondary schools are beginning to make themselves felt, and the pupils (though still only in a minority of cases) are critical of their parents' anti-Soviet ideas.

The University and Higher Education

11. There is a university in Riga. On the university level are the Academy of Art, the Conservatory, the Pedagogic Institute, the Institute for Physical Culture, and the Theater Institute (drama school). A student's political knowledge determines his advancement in all higher educational establishments. Political instruction is strictly enforced by the Political Chair (Politiskais Katedris), which is also in charge of military and physical training.
12. The students come from every class of society. The majority of students are given a State grant of 200 to 300 rubles per month. Those who attain better marks (4 and 5 out of 5) receive the higher grants. From this grant they must pay the university fee of approximately 300 rubles per year. In the first year, the grant is given almost exclusively to students belonging to the Komsomol. During the second and succeeding years, it is given also to students who have gained good marks, and those who have shown themselves active in politics.
13. All students must participate in public works, such as work in public parks or clearance of rubble. They are required to help by speaking and canvassing to put into effect any suggestions made by the State and the Communist Party. The latter might be a drive for increased output or for working on rest days. The manner in which students carry out such tasks determines the marks they receive for "Political-communal attitude" (Politiski-Sabiedriskais Stajs). These marks influence their future career to a very great extent.
14. The Komsomol plays an important part in all higher educational establishments; the Communist Party looks upon its members as helpers. Some 10 to 15 percent of university students in Riga either come from elsewhere in the USSR or are the offspring of Soviet officials in Latvia. Nearly all are members of the Komsomol. In the Academy of Art alone, for example, in 1949, of the 30 applicants accepted as students, 12 were non-Latvians.

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15. Students are drafted to positions already allocated to them in advance, usually in the provinces, upon finishing the university. Very few remain in Riga. Those who wish to work elsewhere in the USSR are given every possible assistance by the authorities.

Teachers and Professors

16. The teaching personnel still consists of old-time Latvian teachers and professors who are gradually being replaced by young Latvians who have been in the Komsomol. There have been no sweeping changes.

Languages

17. Compulsory languages taught in all Latvian schools are Latvian and Russian; in the primary schools, English; and in the secondary schools, English, French, or German.
18. Russian university students are also required to learn Latvian, and there are compulsory Latvian language courses in factories and offices for both Latvians and non-Latvians. Non-Latvians who learn the language can call themselves Latvians officially and thus help in the drive for the Sovietization of Latvia.

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